



Study Background

To address enormous anticipated growth and projected local and regional transportation demand in western Salt Lake County and western Utah County north of Utah Lake, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) and the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), are preparing the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS has been initiated to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will examine community transportation needs and potential impacts in the study area on the natural and built environment.

The Study Area

Approximately 35 miles long, the MVC includes the following area:

- North-South parameters: I-80 in Salt Lake County to the Pleasant Grove Interchange in Utah County to the south (approximately 6400 North)
- East-West parameters: Bangerter Highway (east) to U-111 (approximately 6900 West) in Salt Lake County; approximately 11800 West in Saratoga Springs to I-15 for the Utah County portion

Identifying the Transportation Concepts

After using anticipated transportation performance, potential environmental impacts, public input and other criteria to help identify potential solutions, the MVC EIS team has narrowed a list of more than 300 possible transportation concepts for the Corridor to eight—four in Salt Lake County and four in Utah County (see maps for details).

Incorporating Growth Choices Principles

The MVC EIS team also partnered with Envision Utah and a stakeholder committee comprised of local jurisdictions, land owners and conservation groups, who helped identify “Growth Choices” principles to assist in guiding transportation decisions for the future in the MVC. The project team used these principles, along with other important criteria, to narrow the list of concepts to eight. Each of the eight remaining MVC transportation concepts incorporates these principles, which emphasize a multi-modal approach to transportation that includes transit, roadways and trails.

Public Scoping

The MVC EIS team gathered more than 700 comments from 275 individuals during the first stage of the study. Comments were collected through public workshops, community presentations, written surveys, the project website and a comment line. Public comments revealed important issues related to transportation needs and environmental setting in the Corridor. The MVC EIS team also used public comments to create a comprehensive list of transportation concepts for the MVC.

Screening

In a process called “Screening,” transportation experts reviewed potential transportation solutions and eliminated those that were not feasible. They then grouped similar concepts together and selected eight concepts to be studied in more detail over the next year. Criteria analyzed to narrow the concepts list to eight included traffic data, population projections, findings from previous studies, “Growth Choices” principles and potential impacts on the social, built and natural environments.

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UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY



CONCEPTS ROLLOUT FACT SHEET

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Public Input Sought on Transportation Concepts and Study Documents

The release of eight possible transportation solutions marks an important milestone in the project and a key time for public feedback. These concepts will be studied more over the next year, and the public is invited to comment by Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2004, to allow time for the project team to address questions and concerns. The MVC EIS team also welcomes comments on the "Screening Report," which outlines the screening process, and the draft "Purpose and Need Document," which describes transportation needs in the MVC study area. Residents can use the project website (udot.utah.gov/mountainview) to view these documents as well the transportation concepts. People are encouraged to "Be Part of the Solution" by giving input on key aspects of the study prior to the release of the EIS. Additional opportunities for comment on all of these issues will be provided during the comment period that follows publication of the EIS.

Those without internet access may visit their local library to pick up the concept maps and view the study documents. Feedback may also be provided by attending neighborhood gatherings or by calling the project phone line at 1-800-596-2556.

Detailed Alternatives Analysis

Over the next 12 months, the MVC EIS team will continue to analyze the concepts and add details, like transit station and roadway interchange locations. A public hearing on the Draft EIS is planned for Fall 2005.

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